**✅ Modules Created**

**1. User Service**

* Created REST APIs for:
  + POST /api/users: Create a user
  + GET /api/users/{id}: Get a user by ID
* **Entity**: User
* **DTO**: UserDTO
* **Repository**: UserRepository
* **Service Layer**: Business logic
* **Controller**: REST endpoints

**🆕 New Concepts Used:**

* Spring Boot basic REST setup
* Spring Data JPA
* DTO usage to decouple entity from response

**2. Expense Service**

* Created REST APIs for:
  + POST /api/expenses: Create a new expense
  + GET /api/expenses/user/{userId}: Get all expenses for a user
* **Entity**: Expense (includes userId, amount, date, etc.)
* **Repository**: ExpenseRepository
* **Service Layer**:
  + Validates if user exists using UserService
  + Will check for total expenses vs budget
* **Controller**: Routes to service layer

**🆕 New Concepts Used:**

* Using LocalDate for date handling
* Service-to-service communication with Feign Client

**🔗 Microservice Communication**

**3. Feign Client**

* UserServiceClient created in Expense Service to call User Service:

java

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@FeignClient(name = "user-service", url = "http://localhost:8181/api/users")

public interface UserServiceClient {

@GetMapping("/{id}")

User getUserById(@PathVariable Long id);

}

**🆕 New Concepts Used:**

* Spring Cloud OpenFeign
* Declarative REST client
* Service integration with external APIs

**💡 Business Logic**

**4. User Validation**

* When adding an expense, user is first validated via Feign Client.
* If not found, throw:

java

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throw new ResponseStatusException(HttpStatus.BAD\_REQUEST, "User not found in User Service");

**To be improved** (✅ next up): Move to **Custom Exception + Global Exception Handler**

**⚠️ Planned Business Logic (Not Fully Implemented Yet)**

**5. Budget Validation Feature (Planned)**

* Before creating a new expense:
  + Get total expense amount of the user (from DB)
  + Compare with user's budget (to be added to User Entity)
  + If total + new > budget → **throw budget exceeded error**

**🆕 Will require:**

* Adding budget field to User entity
* Aggregation logic (sum(expenses.amount)) from ExpenseRepository

**⚙️ Setup & Configuration**

**6. Spring Boot + Spring Cloud Compatibility Fix**

* Issue: Spring Boot 3.5.3 not compatible with Spring Cloud
* Solution: Downgraded to **Spring Boot 3.3.x** or changed Spring Cloud version

**🧪 Testing**

**7. Tested with Postman**

* Manually verified:
  + Expense creation
  + Error response when user is not found
  + Data saved in MySQL
* Planned: Add more test scenarios for budget alerts, validations, and aggregations

**🧱 Dependencies Used**

* Spring Boot Starter Web
* Spring Boot Starter Data JPA
* MySQL Connector
* Lombok
* Spring Cloud OpenFeign
* DevTools (for live reload)

**📌 Next Immediate Tasks**

* ✅ Add budget field to User entity
* ✅ Calculate total expenses for a user in ExpenseService
* ✅ Validate budget before allowing expense creation
* ❌ Replace ResponseStatusException with a **custom exception**
* ❌ Implement @RestControllerAdvice with a global exception handler

**🔄 Comparison Table:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Approach | Type | Pros | Cons |
| Feign | Declarative | Clean, easy, Spring Cloud native | Blocking, not reactive |
| RestTemplate | Imperative | Simple for small use cases | Deprecated, verbose, blocking |
| WebClient | Reactive | Non-blocking, modern, more powerful | Slightly more complex |
| gRPC | Binary | Very fast, schema-based | More setup, not HTTP/JSON |
| Kafka/Rabbit | Async | Decoupled, resilient | Complex, harder to trace failures |

**📌 Try and catch to validate the issue**

public void validateUserExists(Long userId) {  
 try {  
 userClient.getUserById(userId); // Feign client call  
 } catch (FeignException.NotFound ex) {  
 throw new ResponseStatusException(HttpStatus.BAD\_REQUEST, "User not found in User Service");  
 } catch (FeignException ex) {  
 throw new ResponseStatusException(HttpStatus.SERVICE\_UNAVAILABLE, "User Service error");  
 }  
}

**✅ USE CASE: validateUserExists(Long userId) Custom Error**

**🔄 Step-by-Step Flow**

**1. 🚀 A request comes in**

You make a POST request like:

json

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{

"title": "Groceries",

"amount": 5000,

"userId": 1

}

to the ExpenseController.createExpense(...) endpoint.

**2. 🧠 Controller calls the Service Layer**

java

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expenseService.createExpense(expenseDto);

Inside createExpense(), we first **validate if the user exists**:

java

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validateUserExists(expenseDto.getUserId());

**3. 📞 Feign Client makes HTTP call**

The Feign client (userClient.getUserById(userId)) sends a REST API request to the **User Service**.

If userId 1 exists → proceeds normally.

If userId 1 does **not exist** → User Service returns **404 Not Found**.

**4. ⚠️ FeignException is thrown**

If user is not found, Feign throws a FeignException.NotFound.

This is caught in your code:

java

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catch (FeignException.NotFound ex) {

throw new UserNotFoundException("User with ID " + userId + " not found in User Service");

}

Now your custom exception UserNotFoundException is thrown.

**5. 🎯 Global Exception Handler catches it**

Spring finds a matching @ExceptionHandler in your @ControllerAdvice class:

java

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@ExceptionHandler(UserNotFoundException.class)

public ResponseEntity<?> handleUserNotFound(UserNotFoundException ex)

**6. 🧾 Returns Custom Error Response**

You return a structured JSON response like this:

json

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{

"timestamp": "2025-07-09T23:55:12",

"status": 400,

"error": "Bad Request",

"message": "User with ID 1 not found in User Service"

}

**📌 Summary of Flow (Diagram Style):**

css

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[POST Request] ──▶ [Controller]

│

▼

[ExpenseService.createExpense()]

│

▼

[validateUserExists(userId)]

│

[Feign Client calls User Service]

│

▼

User Not Found → throws FeignException.NotFound

│

▼

[throw new UserNotFoundException()]

│

▼

[GlobalExceptionHandler catches it via @ControllerAdvice]

│

▼

[Returns clean JSON error to Postman/client]

**✅ Benefits of This Architecture:**

| **Feature** | **Benefit** |
| --- | --- |
| 🔍 Clear Exceptions | Custom messages per case |
| 🧼 Clean Code | No ugly if-else checks in controller |
| 🔁 Reusability | Same handler can be used across services |
| 🧪 Easy Testing | You can unit test exception scenarios easily |
| 🔧 Extendable | Add more exception types like BudgetLimitExceededException, etc. |

Great question! Let's break down **how the @FeignClient works**, and **how it forms the URL** behind the scenes when you just call userClient.getUserById(userId).

**🔧 Your Feign Client Setup:**

java

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@FeignClient(name = "user-service", url = "http://localhost:8181")

public interface UserClient {

@GetMapping("/api/users/{id}")

UserDto getUserById(@PathVariable("id") Long userId);

}

**🔄 How the Feign Client Forms the URL and Makes the Call**

When you call this method:

java

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userClient.getUserById(1L);

Here's what happens step-by-step:

**1. 🎯 Base URL comes from url = "http://localhost:8181"**

That’s the server address where your **User Service** is running.

**2. 🧩 Path is defined by @GetMapping("/api/users/{id}")**

So Feign knows it should hit this endpoint:

bash

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GET /api/users/1

**3. 🧠 Path Variable is replaced**

{id} is replaced by the userId you passed in:

java

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@FeignClient(...)

@GetMapping("/api/users/{id}")

UserDto getUserById(@PathVariable("id") Long userId);

If userId = 1, final URL becomes:

bash

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http://localhost:8181/api/users/1

**✅ So this simple line:**

java

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userClient.getUserById(1L);

**Under the hood becomes:**

bash

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HTTP GET http://localhost:8181/api/users/1

**🔥 Feign Handles All Of This For You:**

* URL building
* HTTP request
* JSON deserialization into UserDto
* Throwing exceptions (FeignException) if status ≠ 200

**💡 Why It’s Powerful:**

You don’t have to write:

java

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RestTemplate rest = new RestTemplate();

UserDto user = rest.getForObject("http://localhost:8181/api/users/1", UserDto.class);

Feign does all that with just an interface call.

Yes — if you're writing **custom exceptions** in a Spring Boot project, then creating a **global exception handler** is not only recommended but **necessary** if you want:

* **Centralized error handling** across your whole application
* **Consistent error responses** (like message, timestamp, status)
* To catch your **custom exceptions** and return proper HTTP responses (instead of 500 Internal Server Errors)

**✅ Here's What You Need:**

**1. Create a Custom Exception (e.g., UserNotFoundException)**

java

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public class UserNotFoundException extends RuntimeException {

public UserNotFoundException(String message) {

super(message);

}

}

**2. Create a Global Exception Handler**

java

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@RestControllerAdvice

public class GlobalExceptionHandler {

@ExceptionHandler(UserNotFoundException.class)

public ResponseEntity<Map<String, Object>> handleUserNotFound(UserNotFoundException ex) {

Map<String, Object> error = new HashMap<>();

error.put("timestamp", LocalDateTime.now());

error.put("status", HttpStatus.NOT\_FOUND.value());

error.put("error", "User Not Found");

error.put("message", ex.getMessage());

return new ResponseEntity<>(error, HttpStatus.NOT\_FOUND);

}

@ExceptionHandler(Exception.class) // fallback for all other exceptions

public ResponseEntity<Map<String, Object>> handleGeneric(Exception ex) {

Map<String, Object> error = new HashMap<>();

error.put("timestamp", LocalDateTime.now());

error.put("status", HttpStatus.INTERNAL\_SERVER\_ERROR.value());

error.put("error", "Internal Server Error");

error.put("message", ex.getMessage());

return new ResponseEntity<>(error, HttpStatus.INTERNAL\_SERVER\_ERROR);

}

}

**⚙️ How It Works:**

* When your service throws throw new UserNotFoundException("User not found in User Service")
* Spring checks for a matching @ExceptionHandler in @RestControllerAdvice
* Returns a JSON error response with the exact structure you want

**📦 Summary:**

| **Component** | **Purpose** |
| --- | --- |
| CustomException | Define specific errors like UserNotFound |
| @RestControllerAdvice | Handle all exceptions globally |
| @ExceptionHandler | Maps specific exceptions to HTTP responses |

com/

└── expensetracker/

├── expense\_service/

├── user\_service/

└── exception/

├── UserNotFoundException.java

├── BudgetExceededException.java

└── GlobalExceptionHandler.java

**ChatGPT said:**

Great question! You’re right — **you *can*** directly throw an error using ResponseStatusException like:

java

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throw new ResponseStatusException(HttpStatus.BAD\_REQUEST, "User not found in User Service");

This works perfectly for **simple one-off use cases**.

**🔍 But here’s *why* and *when* we use custom exceptions:**

**✅ 1. Clean Separation of Concerns**

Instead of hardcoding HTTP logic (ResponseStatusException) inside your **service layer**, you just throw:

java

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throw new UserNotFoundException("User not found in User Service");

This separates **business logic** from **HTTP response handling**, which is cleaner and easier to manage.

**✅ 2. Reusability**

You may need the same exception in multiple places:

java

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throw new UserNotFoundException("User not found in DB");

Instead of repeating new ResponseStatusException(...) everywhere, you reuse your UserNotFoundException.

**✅ 3. Centralized Error Handling (@RestControllerAdvice)**

Using custom exceptions lets you return **custom error formats**, log errors, and set consistent HTTP status codes *automatically*:

java

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@ExceptionHandler(UserNotFoundException.class)

public ResponseEntity<ErrorResponse> handleUserNotFound(UserNotFoundException ex, HttpServletRequest request) {

return new ResponseEntity<>(

new ErrorResponse(400, ex.getMessage(), request.getRequestURI()),

HttpStatus.BAD\_REQUEST

);

}

You write it once → works for every controller.

**✅ 4. Makes Testing Easier**

When writing unit tests, you can assert on specific exception types like:

java

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assertThrows(UserNotFoundException.class, () -> service.getUser(5L));

You can't do this reliably with generic ResponseStatusException.

**🚫 Downsides of only using ResponseStatusException:**

* Harder to maintain when logic grows.
* Repeated HTTP-related code in services.
* Inconsistent error structure unless handled globally.

**✅ So the ideal approach:**

* Throw **custom exceptions** from services.
* Let **@RestControllerAdvice** decide what response should go out.
* Keep **service layer focused only on logic**.

**Summary:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Scenario | Use ResponseStatusException | Use Custom Exception |
| Quick one-liner logic | ✅ Yes | ❌ Not needed |
| Repeated logic across classes | ❌ No | ✅ Yes |
| You want consistent error format | ❌ No | ✅ Yes |
| You want global error handling | ❌ Hacky | ✅ Clean |
| Easy unit testing | ❌ No | ✅ Yes |

Let me know if you want a sample structure to keep your exceptions organized.

**💥 1. Exception is Thrown Inside ExpenseService.java:**

java

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catch (FeignException.NotFound ex) {

throw new UserNotFoundException("User not found in User Service");

}

👉 Here, you're **catching** the FeignException.NotFound (which is an external/internal service exception)  
👉 But instead of throwing that **third-party exception**, you throw your own custom, **clean exception**:  
UserNotFoundException.

This makes your **codebase cleaner**, hides internal implementation details, and helps return consistent error responses.

**📦 2. Custom Exception UserNotFoundException is Thrown**

Your exception class:

java

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public class UserNotFoundException extends RuntimeException {

public UserNotFoundException(String message) {

super(message);

}

}

Even though we only pass a **message**, this is enough to **trigger Spring's exception mechanism**, because it **extends RuntimeException**.

**🛡 3. @ControllerAdvice + @ExceptionHandler Catches It**

In your GlobalExceptionHandler.java, you have something like:

java

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@RestControllerAdvice

public class GlobalExceptionHandler {

@ExceptionHandler(UserNotFoundException.class)

public ResponseEntity<ErrorResponse> handleUserNotFound(UserNotFoundException ex) {

ErrorResponse error = new ErrorResponse();

error.setMessage(ex.getMessage());

error.setStatus(HttpStatus.NOT\_FOUND.value());

error.setTimeStamp(System.currentTimeMillis());

return new ResponseEntity<>(error, HttpStatus.NOT\_FOUND);

}

}

✅ **Even though you didn’t pass the original exception (ex)**, the custom UserNotFoundException is still caught by this handler.  
Why?

Because:

* The **type matches** (@ExceptionHandler(UserNotFoundException.class))
* The **message** is still carried (ex.getMessage())
* Spring Boot **knows which handler to route it to**